

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over either Helling et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,558,887 ("Helling '887") or Helling et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,534,254 ("Helling '254") in view of Mizukawa et al. European Patent No. EP 0571959 ("Mizukawa"). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As the Examiner correctly noted at the top of page 4 of the Office Action, this application was filed after November 29, 1999 (July 2, 2003). Both Helling '887 and Helling '254 were assigned to Agfa-Geveart at the time of the filing of this application. This application is assigned to Agfa-Geveart (see enclosed copy of assignment (Reel 014266 and Frame 0435)). Therefore Helling '254 and Helling '887 are now disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention. Since both the primary references are no longer prior art, the applicants respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

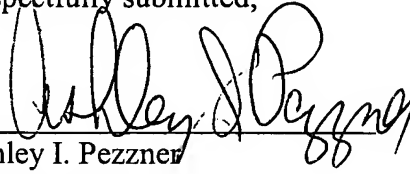
The applicants have amended the abstract as requested by the Examiner.

No additional fees are due. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, including any fees required for an additional extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136, such an extension is requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

A prompt and favorable action is solicited. The applicants believe that these claims are in condition for allowance, however, if the Examiner disagrees, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (302) 888-6270.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosure:
copy of Assignment Recordation